

Visit by ICAO Officials to study security issues

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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of officials from the International Civil Aviation Organization visited India in mid-October, 2006 to inspect the country's major airports with the aim of making Indian airports compliant with international security norms;

(b) if so, whether the team conducted an audit on aerodromes and air traffic control at several airports and studied issues related to safety and security at the airports by screening the Directorate General of Civil Aviation manuals;

(c) if so, whether the delegation has already submitted a report; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A team of safety oversight auditors from International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) visited India in October, 2006 under their Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme to conduct safety oversight audit of Civil Aviation System of India. The aim of the audit team was to conduct regular, mandatory, systematic and harmonised safety audit with the objective of enhancing safety by promoting implementation of International Standards and Recommended Practices on legislation, operations, airworthiness, air navigation services, aerodromes and accident and incident investigation.

The audit did not cover the security issues as these are audited by other designated Security Oversight Auditors of ICAO under their Universal Aviation Security Oversight Audit Programme for all member Countries.

The ICAO Safety Oversight Audit team visited Delhi and Mumbai aerodromes and facilities of air navigation service provider at these aerodromes as a part of the Audit, to assess Safety compliance of International Regulatory Standards and Recommended practices.

The final report of ICAO Safety Oversight Audit of India, would be available by June, 2007.